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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
**DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

ROBERT R. GENTRY,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ELI LILLY AND COMPANY, an  
Indiana corporation,

Defendant.

Case No.: 2:15-cv-00023

**COMPLAINT**

**JURY DEMANDED**

Plaintiff, by and through his undersigned counsel, upon information and belief, at all times hereinafter mentioned, allege as follows:

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

1. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332, because the amount in controversy as to the Plaintiff exceeds \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs, and because there is complete diversity of citizenship between the Plaintiff and the Defendant.

2. Venue is proper in this jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391, because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred in this District, and because Defendant's conduct substantial business in this District.

3. This Court has personal jurisdiction over the Defendant because it has done business in the State of Nevada, has committed a tort in whole or in part in the State of Nevada, has substantial and continuing contact with the State of Nevada, and derives substantial revenue from goods used and consumed within the State of Nevada. The Defendant actively sells, markets, and promote their pharmaceutical product Cymbalta to physicians and consumers in

1 this state on a regular and consistent basis.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

3 4. This is a civil action for products liability alleging personal injuries and damages,  
4 including serious and life-threatening withdrawal symptoms, suffered by Plaintiff ROBERT R.  
5 GENTRY as a direct and proximate result of his ingestion and cessation of the prescription drug,  
6 Cymbalta (duloxetine), which is manufactured, marketed, and sold by Defendant Eli Lilly and  
7 Company (hereinafter, “Defendant” or “Lilly”).

## 8 PARTIES, JURISDICTION, AND VENUE

9 5. Plaintiff ROBERT R. GENTRY (collectively, “the Plaintiff”), is, and at all times  
10 relevant to this Complaint was, a citizen of the State of Nevada and resident of Clark County.

11 6. Defendant Lilly is, and at all times relevant to this Complaint was, an Indiana  
12 corporation with its headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana. Lilly is a pharmaceutical company  
13 involved in the research, development, testing, manufacture, production, promotion, distribution,  
14 marketing and sale of numerous pharmaceutical products, including Cymbalta, a prescription  
15 antidepressant drug.

## 16 FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

17 7. Lilly is one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the world with annual  
18 revenues exceeding \$20 billion. A substantial portion of Lilly’s sales and profits have been  
19 derived from its drug Cymbalta, whose 2009 annual sales exceeded \$3 billion, making it the  
20 second most profitable drug in Lilly’s current product line.

21 8. Lilly has enjoyed considerable financial success from manufacturing and selling  
22 prescription drugs for the treatment of clinical depression, including the popular antidepressant  
23 Prozac (generically known as fluoxetine). Lilly launched Prozac in 1988 touting it as the first  
24 “Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor” (“SSRI”). SSRIs are a class of antidepressant drugs  
25 that were promoted as increasing the brain chemical serotonin in the synaptic clefts between the  
26 neurons in the brain. It has been theorized that reduced levels of serotonin cause depression;  
27 however, recent studies have undermined this theory. Prozac became extremely popular in the  
28 1990s and was the top-selling antidepressant of its kind. Prozac’s patent expired in August 2001.

1           9.       In 2001, Lilly needed to fill the void left behind by Prozac's patent expiration, and  
2 so it sought approval by the Food and Drug Administration's ("FDA") for its next  
3 antidepressant, Cymbalta. Unlike Prozac, Cymbalta is a "Serotonin- Norepinephrine Reuptake  
4 Inhibitor" ("SNRI"), which Lilly promoted as increasing the brain chemicals serotonin and  
5 norepinephrine in the synaptic clefts between the neurons in the brain. Lilly and other SNRI  
6 manufacturers admit that the precise mechanism of action is not have clear, however, they have  
7 promoted the drugs by stating that higher levels of these neurotransmitters somehow improve  
8 and elevate mood.

9           10.       In 2003, the FDA initially rejected Lilly's application to approve Cymbalta due to  
10 certain violations of good manufacturing practices and the risk of liver toxicity apparent in the  
11 drug's safety profile.

12           11.       Eventually, in 2004, manufacturing issues were resolved and the FDA approved  
13 Cymbalta with a liver toxicity warning included in the prescribing information. The drug was  
14 approved for Major Depressive Disorder ("MDD"). In 2007, the FDA approved Cymbalta for  
15 treatment of Generalized Anxiety Disorder ("GAD") and in 2008 for treatment of fibromyalgia.

16           12.       Since the FDA's initial approval of Cymbalta in 2004, Lilly has aggressively  
17 marketed the drug to the public and the medical community, spending hundreds of millions of  
18 dollars each year on advertising and promotion. Lilly has promoted Cymbalta directly to  
19 consumers, including Plaintiff, through all major media channels, including internet, print and  
20 television. In addition, Lilly has promoted Cymbalta to the medical community by utilizing its  
21 well-organized army of sales representatives to personally visit physicians and health care  
22 professionals to distribute free drug samples and promotional literature. Lilly further promoted  
23 Cymbalta through advertisements in medical journals and presenting talks and exhibits at  
24 medical conferences.

25           13.       Lilly's promotional campaigns have continuously overstated the efficacy of  
26 Cymbalta and understated, downplayed, and/or failed altogether to state the true withdrawal side  
27 effects associated with Cymbalta.

28           14.       Presently and at all times material herein, the Cymbalta label provided the

1 following precaution regarding discontinuation: “Discontinuation symptoms have been  
 2 systematically evaluated in patients taking duloxetine. Following abrupt or tapered  
 3 discontinuation in placebo-controlled clinical trials, the following symptoms occurred at a rate  
 4 greater than or equal to 1% and at a significantly higher rate in duloxetine- treated patients  
 5 compared to those discontinuing from placebo: dizziness, nausea, headache, fatigue, paresthesia,  
 6 vomiting, irritability, nightmares, insomnia, diarrhea, anxiety, hyperhidrosis and vertigo....”

7 15. In addition to using the euphemistic term “discontinuation” to describe  
 8 withdrawal side effects, Lilly also made it appear that such discontinuation symptoms were rare  
 9 and only affected approximately 1% of Cymbalta users.

10 16. To the contrary, according to a January 2005 article published in the Journal of  
 11 Affective Disorders, Lilly’s Cymbalta clinical trials showed that a significant percentage (44.3%)  
 12 of Cymbalta patients suffered from “discontinuation” side effects. David G. Peahia et al.,  
 13 *Symptoms Following Abrupt Discontinuation of Duloxetine Treatment in Patients with Major*  
 14 *Depressive Disorder*, 89 JOURNAL OF AFFECTIVE DISORDERS 207 (2005). In this published, peer-  
 15 reviewed paper, the withdrawal side-effect rates for Cymbalta were nearly double that  
 16 experienced by placebo users, and these findings were statistically significant. Accordingly, the  
 17 rate of withdrawal or “discontinuation” for Cymbalta (as established by Lilly’s clinical trials)  
 18 was 44.3%, yet in its packaging label, Lilly misleadingly presented this rate as approximately  
 19 1%.

20 17. Moreover, Lilly’s clinical trials showed that, overall, 9.6% of Cymbalta users  
 21 suffered severe withdrawal side effects, yet nowhere in the label does Lilly inform practitioners  
 22 and patients of that risk.

23 18. Cymbalta’s withdrawal side effects include, among other things, headaches,  
 24 dizziness, nausea, fatigue, diarrhea, paresthesia, vomiting, irritability, nightmares, insomnia,  
 25 anxiety, hyperhidrosis, sensory disturbances, electric shock sensations, seizures and vertigo.  
 26 When patients try to stop taking Cymbalta, the side effects can be severe enough to force them to  
 27 start taking Cymbalta again, not have to treat their underlying condition, but simply to stop the  
 28 withdrawal symptoms. Patients thus become prisoners to Cymbalta, and Lilly financially benefits

1 by having a legion of physically dependent, long-term users of Cymbalta.

2 19. Notwithstanding Lilly's knowledge of the high rate of withdrawal symptoms in  
3 patients stopping Cymbalta, Lilly failed to adequately, properly, and fully warn patients and  
4 physicians about the risk.

5 20. Instead, in its product labeling, marketing and advertising, and in information  
6 made available to consumers and physicians, Lilly reported a far lower risk, downplayed any  
7 difference in the withdrawal risk for Cymbalta as compared to other similar antidepressants, and  
8 affirmatively misled the consuming patient population and mischaracterized the drug's risk  
9 profile.

10 21. In addition to failing to adequately warn about the actual rate and severity of  
11 withdrawal side effect risks, Lilly also overplayed the efficacy of Cymbalta. Seeking to capture a  
12 greater segment of the antidepressant market, in 2005, Lilly initiated the direct-to-consumer  
13 marketing campaign: "Depression hurts. Cymbalta can help." Cymbalta advertisements bearing  
14 this slogan appeared ubiquitously on television, in print and on the internet. Lilly's advertising  
15 campaign made it appear that Cymbalta not have only treated depression but that it also treated  
16 physical pain associated with depression. Scientists reviewing the Cymbalta data have concluded  
17 that Lilly's claims are misleading. For example, in a 2008 article published in Psychotherapy and  
18 Psychosomatics, the author concluded that "the marketing of duloxetine as an antidepressant  
19 with analgesic properties for people with depression does not have appear to be adequately  
20 supported."

21 22. Lilly has also augmented its misleading advertising campaigns by engaging in  
22 selective and biased publication of its clinical trials of Cymbalta. By way of example, Lilly has  
23 generally published only favorable studies of its Cymbalta clinical trials and refused to publish  
24 any of the negative and unfavorable studies. Such selective publication of clinical trial data gives  
25 the impression that the drug is safer and more effective than it actually is. In a recent study  
26 published in the New England Journal of Medicine, researchers obtained clinical trials for  
27 antidepressants (including Cymbalta) that had been submitted to the FDA and compared them  
28 with studies that had been published. The authors found that there was a "bias towards the

publication of positive results” and that, “according to the published literature, it appeared that 94% of the trials conducted were positive. By contrast, the FDA analysis shows that 51% were positive.” The authors found that, as a result of such selective publication, the published literature conveyed a misleading impression of Cymbalta’s efficacy resulting in an apparent effect-size that was 33% larger than the effect size derived from the full clinical trial data. See Erick H. Turner et al., *Selective Publication of Antidepressant Trials and Its Influence on Apparent Efficacy*, 358 NEW ENG. J. MED. 252 (2008).

23. Lilly’s misleading direct-to-consumer promotional campaigns, its misleading presentation of Cymbalta’s efficacy and its failure to adequately warn regarding Cymbalta’s withdrawal and dependency side effects have paid off financially for Lilly. Cymbalta has become a “blockbuster” drug with over \$3 billion dollars in annual sales. In the past few years, Cymbalta has been the second most profitable drug in Lilly’s product line. Coincidentally, the only drug ahead of Cymbalta is Zyprexa, an antipsychotic drug that Lilly promoted illegally. Indeed, in 2009, Lilly agreed to plead guilty and pay \$1.415 billion to the federal government for illegally promoting Zyprexa. This resolution included a criminal fine of \$515 million, which, at the time, was the largest settlement ever in a health care case, and the largest criminal fine for an individual corporation ever imposed in a United States criminal prosecution of any kind.

24. Lilly had the knowledge, the means and the duty to provide adequate warnings regarding Cymbalta’s common and severe withdrawal and dependency side effects as well as a duty to honestly portray the safety and efficacy of Cymbalta. Lilly could have relayed these warnings through the same means it utilized to advertise its products, which included but are not have limited to its labeling, “Dear Doctor letters,” advertisements and sales representatives.

25. In October 2012, the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP), a non-profit healthcare consumer safety watchdog, issued findings from its independent investigation of Cymbalta adverse events found in the FDA Adverse Event Reporting System (FAERS). See QuarterWatch, Monitoring FDA MedWatch Reports, *Why Reports of Serious Adverse Drug Events Continue to Grow*, Oct. 3, 2012, ISMP.

26. The report announced that the investigation uncovered “a signal for serious drug

1 withdrawal symptoms associated with duloxetine (CYMBALTA),” and detailed for the public  
2 what Lilly has long known: “[W]ithdrawal symptoms were reported in 44-50% of patients  
3 abruptly discontinuing duloxetine at the end of clinical studies for depression, and more than half  
4 of this total did not have resolve within a week or two.” *Id.* at 11.

5 27. The ISMP report continued: “[W]e identified a serious breakdown at both the  
6 FDA and the manufacturer, Eli Lilly and Company, in providing adequate warnings and  
7 instructions about how to manage this common adverse effect.” *Id.*

8 28. Explaining the lack of adequate warnings, the ISMP stated: Instead of clear  
9 warnings and useful instructions, the duloxetine patient Medication Guide says only: “Never stop  
10 an antidepressant medicine without first talking to a healthcare provider. Stopping an  
11 antidepressant medicine suddenly can cause other symptoms.” This FDA-approved patient guide  
12 is materially deficient. It gives no hint of the persistence or severity of the symptoms known to  
13 occur. .... We could not have identify any FDA-approved or company information for patients  
14 about how to discontinue duloxetine. *Id.* at 12-13.

15 29. In conclusion, the report minced no words in its indictment of Lilly’s product  
16 information: “A major lapse has occurred in the FDA-approved information for patients about  
17 the risks of stopping duloxetine.” *Id.* at 15.

18 30. Falsely reassured by the misleading and deceptive manner in which Lilly reported  
19 Cymbalta’s withdrawal risk, physicians, including Plaintiff’s physician, have prescribed, and  
20 continue to prescribe, Cymbalta to patients without adequate, accurate and proper warnings  
21 relating to discontinuation of the drug.

22 31. In 2009 Plaintiff was prescribed Cymbalta by his physician, for treatment of  
23 depression and pain.

24 32. Plaintiff experienced side-effects, including headaches, blackouts, and increased  
25 depression while taking Cymbalta. As a result, the Plaintiff attempted to discontinue the use of  
26 Cymbalta under the care of his prescribing physician.

27 33. Upon discontinuing Cymbalta, Plaintiff experienced severe and dangerous  
28 withdrawal symptoms. By way of example, Plaintiff experienced stroke-like symptoms including



1 facial paralysis, blackouts, numbness of limbs, memory loss, joint and muscle pain, painful and  
2 frequent brain zaps, depression, and panic attacks.

3 34. Plaintiff is unable to discontinue Cymbalta due to the withdrawal symptoms, but  
4 continues to suffer symptoms due to its continued use, including but not limited to headaches,  
5 blackouts, and depression.

6 35. At all times relevant, Lilly knew or should have known that Cymbalta was in a  
7 defective condition and was and is inherently dangerous and unsafe when used in the manner  
8 instructed and provided for by Lilly.

9 36. At all times relevant, Lilly knew or should have known of the significantly  
10 increased risk of withdrawal symptoms, including their severity and duration, posed by Cymbalta  
11 and yet failed to adequately warn about said risks.

12 37. At all times relevant, Lilly engaged in a willful, wanton, and reckless conduct,  
13 including its defective design of Cymbalta, its failure to warn about Cymbalta's risks, and its  
14 pattern of affirmative misrepresentations and omissions relating to the safety and efficacy of  
15 Cymbalta. It overstated the drug's efficacy, downplayed withdrawal side effects, and misstated  
16 the actual risk and severity of side effects, all of which induced physicians to prescribe Cymbalta  
17 and consumers to use it, including Plaintiff and his physicians.

18 38. Plaintiff's use of the drug and consequent injuries and damages were a direct and  
19 proximate result of Lilly's acts and omissions relating to Cymbalta.

20 39. If Lilly had adequately, accurately and properly warned about the withdrawal risk  
21 associated with Cymbalta, including the high risk of experiencing them and their frequency and  
22 severity, Plaintiff's physician would not have prescribed the drug to Plaintiff; Plaintiff would  
23 have refused the drug; and/or Plaintiff's physician would have been able to more adequately,  
24 accurately and properly weigh and convey the risks and benefits of the drug in a way as to avoid  
25 Plaintiff's injuries and damages.

26 40. As a direct and proximate result of taking Cymbalta, Plaintiff suffered  
27 compensable injuries, including but limited to the following:

28 a. physical, emotional, and psychological injuries;



- b. past and future pain and suffering;
- c. past and future mental anguish;
- d. loss of enjoyment of life; and
- e. past and future medical and related expenses.

### **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### **(NEGLIGENCE)**

41. Plaintiff incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth herein, all other paragraphs of this Complaint.

42. Lilly owed to Plaintiff, and to other consumers and patients, a duty to exercise reasonable care in the design, formulation, manufacture, sale, promotion, supply and/or distribution of the drug Cymbalta, including the duty to assure that the product is as effective as it is promoted, that the product carries adequate warnings and that the product does not have cause users to suffer from unreasonable, dangerous side effects.

43. Lilly was negligent in the design, manufacture, testing, advertising, marketing, promoting, labeling, supply, and sale of Cymbalta in that it:

- a. Failed to provide proper warnings regarding the true frequency and severity of the withdrawal and dependency side effects associated with Cymbalta;
- b. Failed to provide warnings that Cymbalta could cause patients to become physically dependent on Cymbalta;
- c. Failed to provide adequate training and instructions to patients and health care professionals regarding appropriate uses and discontinuation of Cymbalta;
- d. Failed to warn that the risks associated with Cymbalta exceeded the risks of other comparable forms of treatment;
- e. Negligently misrepresented the efficacy of Cymbalta by portraying Cymbalta as being more efficacious than it really is;
- f. Negligently designed Cymbalta in a way that it knew would cause withdrawal and physical dependency;
- g. Negligently marketed Cymbalta despite the fact that the risk of the drug was

1 so high and the benefits of the drug were so questionable that no reasonable  
2 pharmaceutical company, exercising due care, would have placed it on the  
3 market;

- 4 h. Recklessly, falsely, and deceptively represented or knowingly omitted,  
5 suppressed, or concealed, material facts regarding the safety and efficacy of  
6 Cymbalta to the Plaintiff, the public, the FDA and the medical community;  
7 i. Failed to comply with its post-manufacturing duty to warn that Cymbalta was  
8 being promoted, distributed and prescribed without warning of the true risk of  
9 side effects and without accurate information regarding its efficacy; and  
10 j. Was otherwise careless, negligent, grossly negligent, reckless, and acted with  
11 willful and wanton disregard for Plaintiff's rights and safety.

12 44. Despite the fact that Lilly knew, or should have known, that Cymbalta caused  
13 unreasonable, dangerous side effects, Lilly continued to market Cymbalta to consumers,  
14 including Plaintiff, when there were safer and more effective alternative methods and treatments.  
15 Lilly knew, or should have known, that Cymbalta users would suffer foreseeable injuries as a  
16 result of its failure to exercise ordinary care, as described above. Lilly knew or should have  
17 known that the Cymbalta designed, formulated, manufactured, and/or supplied by it was  
18 defective in design or formulation in that, when it left the hands of the manufacturer and/or  
19 suppliers, the foreseeable risks exceeded the benefits associated with the design or formulation.

20 45. Had Lilly provided an adequate warning regarding the frequency and severity of  
21 the withdrawal and dependency risks, Plaintiff's injuries would have been avoided.

22 46. As a direct and proximate result of one or more of these wrongful acts and  
23 omissions of Lilly, Plaintiff suffered severe injuries as set forth herein. Plaintiff has incurred and  
24 will continue to incur physical and psychological pain and suffering, emotional distress, sorrow,  
25 anguish, stress, shock, and mental suffering. Plaintiff has required and will continue to require  
26 healthcare and services and has incurred, and will continue to incur medical and related  
27 expenses. Plaintiff has also suffered and will continue to suffer diminished capacity for the  
28 enjoyment of life, a diminished quality of life, aggravation of preexisting conditions and

1 activation of latent conditions, and other losses and damages.

2 47. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Lilly for compensatory,  
3 statutory and punitive damages, together his with interest, costs of suit, and all such other relief  
4 as the Court deems appropriate pursuant to the common law and statutory law.

5 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

6 **(STRICT PRODUCT LIABILITY – DESIGN DEFECT)**

7 48. Plaintiff incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth herein, all other paragraphs  
8 of this Complaint.

9 49. At all times relevant, Lilly was engaged in the business of selling Cymbalta in the  
10 State of Nevada.

11 50. The Cymbalta manufactured, marketed, promoted and sold by Lilly was expected  
12 to, and did, reach Plaintiff without substantial change in the condition in which it was sold.

13 51. Lilly introduced a product into the stream of commerce that is dangerous and  
14 unsafe in that the harm of Cymbalta outweighs and benefit derived therefrom. The unreasonably  
15 dangerous nature of Cymbalta caused serious harm to Plaintiff.

16 52. Lilly manufactured, marketed, promoted and sold a product that was  
17 merchantable and/or reasonably suited to the use intended, and its condition when sold was the  
18 proximate cause of the injuries sustained by Plaintiff.

19 53. Lilly placed Cymbalta into the stream of commerce with wanton and reckless  
20 disregard for public safety.

21 54. Despite evidence that Cymbalta is dangerous and likely to place users at serious  
22 risk to their health, Lilly failed to disclose and warn of the health hazards and risks associated  
23 with Cymbalta and, in fact, acted to deceived the medical community and public at large,  
24 including all potential users of Cymbalta, by promoting it as safe and effective.

25 55. Lilly knew or should have known that physicians and other healthcare providers  
26 began commonly prescribing Cymbalta as a safe and effective product despite its lack of efficacy  
27 and potential for serious side effects.

28 56. There are other antidepressant medications and similar drugs on the market with

safer alternative designs, in that they provide equal or greater efficacy and far less risk.

57. As a direct and proximate result of Lilly's widespread promotional activity, physicians commonly prescribe Cymbalta and safe and effective.

58. As a direct and proximate result of one or more of these wrongful acts and omissions of Lilly, Plaintiff suffered severe injuries as set forth herein. Plaintiff has incurred and will continue to incur physical and psychological pain and suffering, emotional distress, sorrow, anguish, stress, shock, and mental suffering. Plaintiff has required and will continue to require healthcare and services and has incurred, and will continue to incur medical and related expenses. Plaintiff has also suffered and will continue to suffer diminished capacity for the enjoyment of life, a diminished quality of life, aggravation of preexisting conditions and activation of latent conditions, and other losses and damages.

59. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Lilly for compensatory, statutory and punitive damages, together his with interest, costs of suit, and all such other relief as the Court deems appropriate pursuant to the common law and statutory law.

### THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

#### (STRICT PRODUCT LIABILITY – FAILURE TO WARN)

60. Plaintiff incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth herein, all other paragraphs of this Complaint.

61. Lilly researched, tested, developed, designed, licensed, manufactured, packaged, inspected, labeled, distributed, sold, marketed, promoted and/or introduced Cymbalta into the stream of commerce and in the course of same, directly advertised and/or marketed Cymbalta to consumers or persons responsible for consumers, and therefore, had a duty to warn Plaintiff and Plaintiff's physicians of the risks associated with Cymbalta, which Lilly knew or should have known are inherent in the use of Cymbalta.

62. Lilly had a duty to warn of adverse drug reactions, which it knew or should have known, can be caused by the use of Cymbalta and/or are associated with the use of Cymbalta, including its propensity to induce withdrawal symptoms and side effects.

63. Cymbalta was under the exclusive control of Lilly and was not have accompanied

1 by appropriate warnings regarding all possible adverse side effects and complications associated  
2 with the use and discontinuation of Cymbalta. The information given to consumers and  
3 physicians did not have accurately reflect the risk, incidence, symptoms, scope or severity of  
4 such side effects to the consumer as compared to other similar products available in the market,  
5 which possessed lower risk of such side effects. The promotional activities of Lilly further  
6 diluted and/or minimized any warnings that were provided with the product.

7 64. Lilly downplayed the serious and dangerous side effects of Cymbalta in order to  
8 foster and heighten sales of the product.

9 65. Cymbalta was defective and unreasonably dangerous when it left the possession  
10 of Lilly in that it contained warnings insufficient to alert Plaintiff to the dangerous risks and  
11 reactions associated with it, including but not have limited to severe, debilitating withdrawal  
12 symptoms. Even though Lilly knew or should have known the risks associated with Cymbalta, it  
13 failed to provide adequate warnings.

14 66. Plaintiff used Cymbalta as intended or in a reasonably foreseeable manner.

15 67. Plaintiff could not have discovered any defect in the drug through the exercise of  
16 reasonable care.

17 68. Lilly, as manufacturer of Cymbalta and other pharmaceutical prescription drugs,  
18 is held to the level of knowledge of an expert in the field, and further, Lilly had knowledge of the  
19 dangerous risks and side effects of Cymbalta.

20 69. Plaintiff did not have the same knowledge as Lilly and no adequate warning was  
21 communicated to his physicians.

22 70. Lilly had a continuing duty to warn consumers, including Plaintiff and his  
23 physicians, and the medical community of the dangers associated with Cymbalta and by  
24 negligently and wantonly failing to adequately warn of the dangers associated with the use of  
25 Cymbalta, Lilly breached its duty.

26 71. Although Lilly knew or should have known of the defective nature of Cymbalta, it  
27 continued to design, manufacture, market and sell the drug without providing adequate warnings  
28 or instructions concerning the use of the drug in order to maximize sales and profits at the

1 expense of the public health and safety, in knowing, conscious, and deliberate disregard of the  
2 foreseeable harms posed by the drug.

3 72. In addition, Lilly's conduct in the packaging, warning, marketing, advertising,  
4 promoting, distribution, and sale of the drug was committed with knowing, conscious, willful,  
5 wanton, and deliberate disregard for the value of human life, and the rights and safety of  
6 consumers, including Plaintiff.

7 73. As a direct and proximate result of one or more of these wrongful acts and  
8 omissions of Lilly, Plaintiff suffered severe injuries as set forth herein. Plaintiff has incurred and  
9 will continue to incur physical and psychological pain and suffering, emotional distress, sorrow,  
10 anguish, stress, shock, and mental suffering. Plaintiff has required and will continue to require  
11 healthcare and services and has incurred, and will continue to incur medical and related  
12 expenses. Plaintiff has also suffered and will continue to suffer diminished capacity for the  
13 enjoyment of life, a diminished quality of life, aggravation of preexisting conditions and  
14 activation of latent conditions, and other losses and damages.

15 74. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Lilly for compensatory,  
16 statutory and punitive damages, together his with interest, costs of suit, and all such other relief  
17 as the Court deems appropriate pursuant to the common law and statutory law.

18 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

19 **(STRICT PRODUCT LIABILITY)**

20 75. Plaintiff incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth herein, all other paragraphs  
21 of this Complaint.

22 76. Lilly designed, manufactured, marketed, promoted, sold, supplied, and/or  
23 distributed Cymbalta in a defective and unreasonably dangerous condition to consumers,  
24 including Plaintiff.

25 77. Lilly designed, manufactured, marketed, promoted, sold, supplied, and/or  
26 distributed Cymbalta, which was expected to and did reach consumers, including Plaintiff,  
27 without substantial change in the condition in which it was manufactured and sold by Lilly.

28 78. Plaintiff used Cymbalta as prescribed and in a manner normally intended,

recommended, promoted, and marketed by Lilly.

79. Cymbalta failed to perform safely when used by ordinary consumers, including Plaintiff, when used as intended and in a reasonably foreseeable manner.

80. Cymbalta was defective in its design and was unreasonably dangerous in that its foreseeable risks exceeded the benefits associated with its design and formulation.

81. Cymbalta was defective in design or formulation in that it posed a greater likelihood of injury compared to other similar medications and was more dangerous than an ordinary consumer could reasonably foresee or anticipate.

82. Cymbalta was defective in its design and was unreasonably dangerous in that it neither bore nor was packaged with, nor was otherwise accompanied by, warnings adequate to alert consumers, including Plaintiff and his physicians, of the risks described herein, including the significant increased risk of withdrawal symptoms.

83. Although Lilly knew or should have known of the defective nature of Cymbalta, it continued to design, manufacture, market, and sell Cymbalta in order to maximize sales and profits at the expense of the public health and safety. By so acting, Lilly acted with a conscious and deliberate disregard of the foreseeable harm caused by Cymbalta.

84. Plaintiff could not, through the exercise of reasonable care, have discovered Cymbalta's defects or perceived the dangers posed by the drug.

85. Lilly's conduct as described herein was committed with knowing, conscious, wanton, willful, and deliberate disregard for the value of human life and the rights and safety of consumers such as Plaintiff, thereby entitling Plaintiff to punitive damages so as to punish Lilly and deter it from similar conduct in the future.

86. As a direct and proximate result of one or more of these wrongful acts and omissions of Lilly, Plaintiff suffered severe injuries as set forth herein. Plaintiff has incurred and will continue to incur physical and psychological pain and suffering, emotional distress, sorrow, anguish, stress, shock, and mental suffering. Plaintiff has required and will continue to require healthcare and services and has incurred, and will continue to incur medical and related expenses. Plaintiff has also suffered and will continue to suffer diminished capacity for the



1 enjoyment of life, a diminished quality of life, aggravation of preexisting conditions and  
2 activation of latent conditions, and other losses and damages.

3 87. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Lilly for compensatory,  
4 statutory and punitive damages, together his with interest, costs of suit, and all such other relief  
5 as the Court deems appropriate pursuant to the common law and statutory law.

6 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
7 **(NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION)**

8 88. Plaintiff incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth herein, all other paragraphs  
9 of this Complaint.

10 89. Lilly owed a duty to Plaintiff and his physicians to convey and communicate  
11 truthful and accurate information about Cymbalta.

12 90. Lilly represented to Plaintiff, his physicians, and other members of the public and  
13 the medical community that Cymbalta was safe for use and that any withdrawal side effects were  
14 no different, and no worse and no more frequent, than other similar products in the market.  
15 These representations were, in fact, false.

16 91. Lilly also represented to Plaintiff, his physicians, and other members of the public  
17 and the medical community that Cymbalta can treat physical pain associated with depression.  
18 These representations were, in fact, false.

19 92. Lilly was negligent in failing to exercise due care in making the aforesaid  
20 representations.

21 93. Lilly had a pecuniary interest in making said representations, which were made in  
22 order to expand sales and increase revenue Cymbalta.

23 94. At the time said representations were made by Lilly, at the time Plaintiff and his  
24 physicians took the actions herein alleged, Plaintiff and his physicians were ignorant of the  
25 falsity of Lilly's representations and reasonably believed them to be true. In justifiable reliance  
26 upon said representations, Plaintiff and his physicians were induced to, and did, use Cymbalta  
27 and attempt to discontinue from Cymbalta. If Plaintiff and his physicians had known the actual  
28 facts, Plaintiff's injuries would have been avoided because Plaintiff's physician would not have

1 prescribed the drug, Plaintiff would not have taken the drug, and/or the risk would have been  
2 conveyed to Plaintiff in a way so as to alter the prescription and avoid Plaintiff's injuries. 96.  
3 The reliance of Plaintiff and his physicians upon Lilly's representations was justified because the  
4 representations were made by individuals and entities who appeared to be in a position to know  
5 the true facts relating to risks associated with Cymbalta.

6 95. As a direct and proximate result of one or more of these wrongful acts and  
7 omissions of Lilly, Plaintiff suffered pecuniary losses including but not have limited to past and  
8 future medical and related expenses.

9 96. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Lilly for compensatory,  
10 statutory and punitive damages, together his with interest, costs of suit, and all such other relief  
11 as the Court deems appropriate pursuant to the common law and statutory law.

## 12 SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

### 13 (FRAUD)

14 97. Plaintiff incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth herein, all other paragraphs  
15 of this Complaint.

16 98. Lilly represented to Plaintiff, his physicians, and other members of the public and  
17 the medical community that Cymbalta was safe for use and that any withdrawal side effects were  
18 no different, and no worse and no more frequent, than other similar products in the market.  
19 These representations were, in fact, false and material.

20 99. Lilly also represented to Plaintiff, his physicians, and other members of the public  
21 and the medical community that Cymbalta can treat physical pain associated with depression.  
22 These representations were, in fact, false and material.

23 100. Lilly made the aforesaid representations knowingly and/or with reckless disregard  
24 for their truth or falsity.

25 101. Lilly made the aforesaid representations with the intent that Plaintiff and his  
26 physicians act upon said representations.

27 102. At the time said representations were made by Lilly, at the time Plaintiff and his  
28 physicians took the actions herein alleged, Plaintiff and his physicians were ignorant of the

1 falsity of Lilly's representations and reasonably believed them to be true. In justifiable reliance  
 2 upon said representations, Plaintiff and his physicians were induced to, and did, use Cymbalta  
 3 and attempt to discontinue from Cymbalta. If Plaintiff and his physicians had known the actual  
 4 facts, Plaintiff's injuries would have avoided because either his Plaintiff's physician would not  
 5 have prescribed the drug, Plaintiff would not have taken the drug, and/or the risk would have  
 6 been conveyed to Plaintiff in a way so as to alter the prescription and avoid Plaintiff's injuries.

7 103. The reliance of Plaintiff and his physicians upon Lilly's representations was  
 8 justified because the representations were made by individuals and entities who appeared to be in  
 9 a position to know the true facts relating to risks associated with Cymbalta.

10 104. As a direct and proximate result of one or more of these wrongful acts and  
 11 omissions of Lilly, Plaintiff suffered severe injuries as set forth herein. Plaintiff has incurred and  
 12 will continue to incur physical and psychological pain and suffering, emotional distress, sorrow,  
 13 anguish, stress, shock, and mental suffering. Plaintiff has required and will continue to require  
 14 healthcare and services and has incurred, and will continue to incur medical and related  
 15 expenses. Plaintiff has also suffered and will continue to suffer diminished capacity for the  
 16 enjoyment of life, a diminished quality of life, aggravation of preexisting conditions and  
 17 activation of latent conditions, and other losses and damages.

18 105. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Lilly for compensatory,  
 19 statutory and punitive damages, together his with interest, costs of suit, and all such other relief  
 20 as the Court deems appropriate pursuant to the common law and statutory law.

## 21 SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

### 22 (BREACH OF IMPLIED WARRANTY)

23 106. Plaintiff incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth herein, all other paragraphs  
 24 of this Complaint.

25 107. As described herein, Plaintiff suffered injuries as a direct and proximate result of  
 26 his use and discontinuation of Cymbalta.

27 108. At the time of Plaintiff's use of Cymbalta and resulting injuries, the Cymbalta he  
 28 was taking was in essentially the same condition as when it left the control and possession of

1 Lilly.

2 109. At all times relevant, the Cymbalta received and used by Plaintiff was not have fit  
3 for the ordinary purposes for which it is intended to be used in that, inter alia, it posed a higher  
4 risk of withdrawal symptoms – of greater duration and severity – than other similar products  
5 available in the market.

6 110. Plaintiff's injuries were due to the fact that Cymbalta was in a defective condition,  
7 as described herein, rendering it unreasonably dangerous to him.

8 111. As a direct and proximate result of one or more of these wrongful acts and  
9 omissions of Lilly, Plaintiff suffered severe injuries as set forth herein. Plaintiff has incurred and  
10 will continue to incur physical and psychological pain and suffering, emotional distress, sorrow,  
11 anguish, stress, shock, and mental suffering. Plaintiff has required and will continue to require  
12 healthcare and services and has incurred, and will continue to incur medical and related  
13 expenses. Plaintiff has also suffered and will continue to suffer diminished capacity for the  
14 enjoyment of life, a diminished quality of life, aggravation of preexisting conditions and  
15 activation of latent conditions, and other losses and damages.

16 112. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Lilly for compensatory,  
17 statutory and punitive damages, together his with interest, costs of suit, and all such other relief  
18 as the Court deems appropriate pursuant to the common law and statutory law.

19 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

20 **(VIOLATION OF NEVADA'S DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES ACT)**

21 113. Plaintiff incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth herein, all other paragraphs  
22 of this Complaint.

23 114. Lilly has a statutory duty to refrain from making false or fraudulent  
24 representations and/or from engaging in deceptive acts or practices in the sale and promotion of  
25 Cymbalta pursuant to Nevada's Deceptive Trade Practices Act, NRS Chapter 598 (hereinafter  
26 "the Act"), which prohibits organization and its agents, employees and representatives from  
27 engaging "directly or indirectly, in any act, practice or course of business which operates or  
28 would operate as a fraud or deception upon any person in connection with the offer or sale of the

services of an organization" and declares such acts or practices as unlawful. NRS 598.746(5); 598.0999(3).

115. Lilly engaged in unfair, deceptive, false and/or fraudulent acts and/or practices in violation of the Act through its false and misleading promotion of Cymbalta designed to induce Plaintiff to purchase and use Cymbalta.

116. Lilly's conduct as described herein constituted unfair and deceptive acts and practices, including, but not limited to numerous misrepresentations to Plaintiff, his healthcare providers, and the general public and numerous misleading omissions, including its failure to disclose risk information as described herein, thereby giving rise to unnecessary pain and suffering.

117. Lilly's business practices relating to its products are unlawful because they constitute, inter alia, false advertising, misrepresentations and misleading omissions.

118. As a direct and proximate result of Lilly's unlawful business practices and false advertising, Plaintiff has suffered significant damages, including but not have limited to physical injury and actual loss of money or property, and will continue to suffer such damages in the future.

119. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff seeks damages, punitive damages, attorneys' fees and costs, and all other relief allowed under the Act.

### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Lilly on each of the above-referenced claims and Causes of Action and as follows:

1. Awarding compensatory damages in excess of the jurisdictional amount, including, but not have limited to pain, suffering, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, and other non-economic damages in an amount to be determined at trial of this action;

2. Awarding economic damages in the form of medical expenses, out of pocket expenses, lost earnings and other economic damages in an amount to be determined at trial of this action;

3. Punitive and/or exemplary damages for the wanton, willful, fraudulent, reckless

1 acts of Lilly who demonstrated a complete disregard and reckless indifference for the safety and  
2 welfare of the general public and to Plaintiff in an amount sufficient to punish Lilly and deter  
3 future similar conduct;

- 4 4. Prejudgment interest;
- 5 5. Postjudgment interest;
- 6 6. Awarding Plaintiff's reasonable attorneys' fees;
- 7 7. Awarding Plaintiff the costs of these proceedings; and
- 8 8. Such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

9 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

10 Plaintiff hereby demands trial by jury as to all issues.

11 Dated January 6, 2015.

12 **LYNCH LAW PRACTICE, PLLC**

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